MICRO OF MONMOUTH
P.O.Box 221
Englishtown,NJ 07726

NEWSLETTER

October/November 1985 Vol.4 Issue 6

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NOVEMBER MEETINGS:

MONDAY, November 4
9:00 PM
Manalapan H.S.
Room E-108

MONDAY, November 18
9:00 PM
Manalapan H.S.
Room E-108

DECEMBER MEETINGS:

MONDAY, December 2

MONDAY, December 15

M * O * M

Micro of Monmouth

The Newsletter of the Computer Club of Monmouth, Inc.

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The Computer Club of Monmouth, Inc. is a non-profit organization of ATARI computer enthusiasts and users who share a common interest in exchanging information about the programming and operation of the ATARI microcomputer system.

The club meets at the Manalapan High School at 8:00 PM on the first and third Mondays of each month. The meeting dates are changed or cancelled when a holiday or foul weather causes the school to be closed.

Neither M.O.M. newsletter or The Computer Club of Monmouth, Inc. is affiliated with ATARI Corp., ATARI,Inc., Warner Communication or any of their subsidiary companies. All use of the word "ATARI" or the Fuji logo is recognized as a trademark of ATARI Corp.

The M.O.M. newsletter solicits from its members reviews, news, rumors, articles, original programs, classified ads, and any other material of interest for publication. All material submitted for publication should be given to the editor at the meetings or mailed to the club address.

The material printed in the M.O.M. newsletter may be freely copied. We request that credit be given to its authors and to M.O.M. This newsletter is sent to paid-up members of the club and to other user groups on an exchange basis. User groups interested in exchanging newsletters should write to the club address.

The club supports its own Bulletin Board System that is on line 24 hours a day with a special section for M.O.M. members. The BBS is open to all types of computers after a name/address verification.

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WHO'S WHO AT M * O * M

Elected Officers

President - Ken Kelly
Secretary - George Sullivan
Librarian - Thomas Stokes
Editor - Irwin Kaplan

Vice-Pres - Mike Carovillano
Prog.Chair - Al Pavlick
Doc Library - Norman Wersan
MOM's BBS - 201-738-4982

SUBCOMMITIES

Frank Fezza - Acting Liaison to the Board of Education
Jimmy Krutzler - BBS Sysop
Jim Krutzler - Newsletter co-ordinator

News Release

ATARI CORP.®

CONTACT: SAM TRAMIEL
PRESIDENT
ATARI CORP.

DATE: October 14, 1985

SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA -- In an agreement between Digital Research and Apple Computer, Digital Research has agreed to make certain superficial changes to three of its application programs: "GEM Desktop", "GEM Paint" and "GEM Draw". Contrary to reports, the agreement does not require changes to GEM or to Atari Corp.'s TOS operating system.

DRI, as part of its normal development process, has prepared enhancements to its GEM application products which further set it apart from the Apple Macintosh. Atari is reviewing these changes. Atari promises its software developers and customers that Atari will make no changes that will reduce the capabilities of the Atari ST system and software. Further, Atari promises that any enhancements will maintain compatibility with GEM applications software on the market and in development.

Digital Research's GEM and the applications software which uses its capabilities will continue to provide the most powerful and easy-to-use computer interface on the market. The Atari 520 ST continues to be the most powerful computer delivering these features and will continue to do so at an affordable price.

* * * *

In an unrelated development, Atari Corp. is pleased to announce the availability of "Atari ST Basic", the most powerful and easy-to-use version of Basic for any computer. Atari ST customers who have sent in their warranty cards will automatically receive this new product. It will also be made available through your nearby Atari computer dealer.

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ATARI CORP. 1265 Borregas Avenue Sunnyvale, California 94086

GEM CHANGE

Digital Research Inc. (DRI) agreed to change GEM in response to a law suit by Apple Computer Inc. Apple claimed that GEM infringes on the Macintosh visual interface (icons & drop-down menus).DRI in the hopes of keeping GEM software writers interested and the EOM momentum going, has created a new version of GEM. As part of the legal settlement agreement, Apple has to approve the new version. This situation could hurt the marketing of the 520ST. Atari licensed GEM as the graphics interface for the 520ST and Tramiel has to decide what to do. In the meantime,the old GEM interface can only be sold until the middle of November.

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VALDOCS

Rising Star Industries, the company that created Valdocs for the line of Epson computers, is working on a version for the 520ST.This intergrated program would be distributed directly by Atari. This intergrated program would take advantage of the graphics and power of the 520ST.

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SUPPORT

In an October InfoWorld article "I'm Going to Place My Bet on the Atari", by columnist John C. Dvorak, recognition is given to Atari's efforts to market technologically advanced computers. Mentioned are enhancements to the "amy" sound chip, the graphics chip, and the possibility of a deal with National Semiconductor for use of the 32000 series processor chip for the next generation of personal workstations.

He states there are rumors that Atari is working on color workstations for less than $2000, a CAD/CAM graphics workstation, and machines with resolution of 1024x1024 and one with 2048x2048. These machine will be priced to sell at one-fifth of the competitions prices.

As for the 520ST, he likes it and reflects that the Amiga doesn't offer that much more to a purchaser at it's price point.And, he comments, the techies are heading toward the Atari.

The only sour point in the article is his belief that cash is short at Atari and this maybe the overriding factor in the development of the company.

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NEW ATARI MAGAZINE

S/T Applications, 10760 Hwy 116, Forestville,CA 95436 is a new monthly magazine devoted to the Atari ST. Its first issue is 20 pages and subscriptions are $25 for 6 issues or $50 for 6 issues on disk.

EXECUTIVES LEAVE ATARI

Sig Schreyer,vice president and general manager, and James Copeland, vice president for marketing, have both left Atari. According to Atari, Screyer was let go because Atari was not satisfied with the job he was doing.

Copland,whom Tramiel brought from Commodore, resigned to start his own distribution company.His departure was an amicable one.

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HARD DISK DRIVE FOR 520ST

Haba Systems announced Haba Disk, a 10megabyte hard disk drive for the Atari 520ST. The $699.95 Winchester plug-in disk is self powered. Compatible with GEM DOS and GEM Mouse, the Haba Disk includes an Atari interface cable and operates with the ST's color monitor.

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ATARIWRITER SUBS FOR GEM

Atari frustrated with delays by Digital Research Inc. (DRI), in the development of GEM Write for the Atari 520 ST, is set to offer an alternative program that does not use DRI's GEM interface.

The substitute program is an 80 column version of Atariwriter. This program is functionally equivalent to the old Atariwriter and includes utilities to transmit files in Atariwriter format from the 800XL or 130XE to the 520ST.The new program also employs color and the larger memory buffer of the 520ST.

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ALTERNATE OPERATING SYSTEM FOR THE 520ST

In an effort to make additional software available for the 520ST, Atari has purchased the rights to offer a popular Britsh operating system BOS, as an alternative to the TOS operating system.

The BOS system offers a complete line of business programs,database program, and other application software.

The BOS system also offers the Atari a limited amount of compatibility with IBM PCs and several other machines. An Atari 520ST connected by cable over an RS232C serial port to an IBM PC running the BOS operating system could exchange data files with the IBM.

Under the terms of the agreement, Atari can ship a version of the BOS operating system with each 520ST it sells. However, computers already in the field are not equipped with the sytem. For those owners, a copy of the BOS system could be purchased for $100 if they also purchase one BOS application program.

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COMPUTER PARADE

DRI...If things weren't bad enough at Digital Research - the GEM interface designer - IBM retracted its deal with DRI to market GEM Desktop and GEM Draw software. Oberservers opinions are that IBM believes the GEM system will compete too closely with its own and Microsoft Corp.'s offerings.(Do you think IBM knew about the Apple suit???Ed.)

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FRANKLIN COMPUTER CORP...Franklin began shipping the Apple-compatible Ace 2000 series, its first new product in two years. Over 400 dealers are slated to get these new computers which features their new DOS 2, proprietary operating system. The computer was designed to reestablish the Ace line. The Ace 2000 comes in three configurations and is priced from $699 to $1000. The computers run most of the software available for the Apple II series.

The Ace 2000 has no disk drive and sells at $699. The Ace 2100 with one disk drive is priced at $849.The Ace 2200 has two built-in floppy disk drives and will sell for $999.A Franklin monitor will be available at $139.

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IBM...IBM notified the remaining 50,000 or so users of its System/34 small business system that it will stop supporting their SSP operating system and other system software as of Februrary 21, 1986. That will be one year after the company discontinued selling the system. The System/34 was replaced by the System/36. IBM indicated that some 65,000 customers used the System/34 in the U.S., making it one of the most popular pre-PC computers the company sold.

With over 100,000 of its slow selling home computer sitting on shelves, IBM has begun offering the computers to its employees for $450. That price, about a third of the machine's original list price, includes a PCjr,color monitor,disk drive, and three software packages. IBM stopped making the computer last spring because sales were very,very slow after a price stimulated X-mas season. Employees are not likeley to buy all 100,000 computers so look for some more retail price cuts and promotions.

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THINGS TO COME...Matsushita Electric will unveil an office workstation next month that will make U.S. and other competitors sit up and take notice. Planned to sell between $5000 and $8000, the new Integrated Work Processor (IWP) will come with a laser printer,facsimile,plain paper copier, an 864x1184 bit-mapped display,an Intel 80186 chip,512K memory, a 12.75MB hard disk, 3.5 inch floppies, and a mouse. The IWP can also have IBM 5550 compatibility running under Microsoft windows and support PC/DOS applications and MS/NET for communications. First shipments are scheduled for mid-1986.

Irwin Kaplan
October 1985

USING THE EXTRA MEMORY IN THE XL AND (XE?) MACHINES.
(Reprint:ACE July/August,1986)

X:HANDLER
Using the XL's Extra Memory As a Device

(This article is a reprint from the ACE newsletter which cites the MACE,June 1985 as the source and is more complete than the part I have reprinted Ed.)

The Atari XL computers have an extra 16k of RAM hidden beneath their ROM. This is why the XLs boast 64k RAM while the 800s have only 48k.However, this extra memory almost always goes to waste. There are many new products coming out soon which will use it, but currently there are very few programs besides the Transilator Disk and DOS XL (and Flight Simulator II-ed.)which utilize it; most don't even know about it. In BASIC and all other languages the XLs still have the same amount of free memory as a 48k 800. What good is the extra memory if it is not used?

This program allows you to access the 14k of the extra 16k as device x:(2k is always allotted to I/O space). You can do most things with it which you can do with any device: you can SAVE"X":LOAD "x":,PRINT to a channel opened to X:, GET from a channel opened to X;,etc. You can also NOTE and POINT as with a disk drive. The X: device will not be killed by RESET. Anything saved to it will be completely invisible to everything except the X: handler itself. Do noy use X: when the DOS:XL file of DOS:XL is in use, or DOS will be clobbered.

To use the program, type in the BASIC listing. It will ask you for a filespec (D:AUTORUN.SYS of C:) and then create the file ... After rebooting the computer or loading the file from DOS, you will have device X: at your disposal. From BASIC try LIST "X:" when there is a program in memory. The screen will flicker as the ROM character set is switched on and off. This flicker serves the same purpose as the beeping of the disk drive. Type NEW and then LIST the program to verify it is gone. Now type ENTER "X:" and LIST again. Ta da! It's back. If the X: handler should lock up the computer and leave a bunch of squiggly lines on the screen, press RESET and try the operation again. Check to make sure you typed in the program correctly.

The X: device is useful as a RAMdisk. It is much faster than floppies and can contain up to 14k of data without giving an error. This is the equivalent of over 100 single density sectors.Random access can be obtained after opening X: by using NOTE and POINT with the low and high bytes of the desired address instead of the sector and byte numbers of a disk. X: can be opened by OPEN #chan,9,0,"X:". X: is perfect for temporary,fast storage. Have fun.

```
2 REM ****************
5 REM *  X:HANDLER  *
6 REM ****************
7 DIM F$(15)
10 GRAPHICS 0:? "X: creator":? :? "checking data..."
15 LINE=1000:TRAP 90
20 FOR X=1 TO 10:READ BYTE
30 TOT=TOT+BYTE
40 IF TOT>999 THEN TOT=TOT-1000
50 NEXT X:READ CHKSUM
60 IF TOT<>CHKSUM THEN ? "data error in line ";LINE:END
70 LINE=LINE+10:GOTO 20
90 IF LINE<1300 THEN ? "missing a data line":END
100 ? "Enter DEV:FILENAME";:INPUT F$
105 ? "creating file..."
110 RESTORE
120 OPEN #1,8,0,F$
130 TRAP 130
140 FOR X=1 TO 10:READ BYTE
150 PUT #1,BYTE:NEXT X
160 READ CHKSUM:GOTO 140
200 IF PEEK(195)<>6 THEN ? "Error ";PEEK(195):END
210 CLOSE #1:? "Awesome...file completeed!":END
1000 DATA 255,255,0,34,251,34,165,12,141,60,207
1010 DATA 34,165,13,141,61,34,169,59,133,12,28
1020 DATA 169,34,133,13,169,31,141,231,2,169,120
1030 DATA 35,141,232,2,160,0,185,26,3,240,144
1040 DATA 8,200,200,200,192,34,144,244,96,169,631
1050 DATA 88,153,26,3,169,66,153,27,3,169,488
1060 DATA 34,153,28,3,96,32,65,34,32,10,975
1070 DATA 34,96,77,34,97,34,119,34,132,34,666
1080 DATA 150,34,174,34,189,74,3,201,9,240,774
1090 DATA 86,169,0,141,26,35,169,192,141,27,760
1100 DATA 35,76,171,34,189,74,3,41,8,240,631
1110 DATA 66,173,26,35,141,28,35,173,27,35,370
1120 DATA 141,29,35,76,171,34,32,151,34,176,249
1130 DATA 42,32,233,34,177,224,76,255,34,172,528
1140 DATA 27,35,240,29,72,32,216,34,104,32,349
1150 DATA 233,34,145,224,76,255,34,172,27,35,584
1160 DATA 32,216,34,204,29,35,208,9,205,28,584
1170 DATA 35,208,4,160,136,56,96,160,1,24,464
1180 DATA 96,189,66,3,201,37,208,16,189,77,546
1190 DATA 3,201,192,144,24,141,27,35,189,76,578
1200 DATA 3,141,26,35,173,26,35,157,76,3,253
1210 DATA 173,27,35,157,77,3,76,171,34,160,166
1220 DATA 171,96,173,26,35,133,224,192,208,208,632
1230 DATA 5,160,216,140,27,35,132,225,96,172,840
```

```
1240 DATA 1,211,140,30,35,160,0,140,14,210,781
1250 DATA 140,14,212,160,252,140,1,211,252,34,197
1260 DATA 30,35,160,0,96,172,30,35,140,1,896
1270 DATA 211,160,64,140,14,212,164,16,140,14,31
1280 DATA 210,238,26,35,208,3,238,27,35,160,211
1290 DATA 1,96,0,0,0,0,0,224,2,225,759
1300 DATA 2,0,34,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,795
1310 REM * 310 BYTES
```

<<< FROM THE RUMOR MILL >>>

by Jim Krutzler

These items of interest should come to pass by years end.

For the 8-bit machines.

XM301 direct connect modem that uses the computers power-supply. It runs at 300 baud and comes with with software and one-hour connect time with CompuServe; $49.95.

XM801 direct connect printer at 80 chr/sec.

Five new software packages;

1- The Learning Phone cartridge for Plato.

2- AtariWriter-plus for the 64K and 130XE machines with built-in spelling checker.

3- Proof Reader.

4- Silent Butler

5- Music Painter.

For the ST line these should be ready.

The completed BASIC.

Digital's VT compatiblity and will operate at 9600 baud.

A terminal program.

A PC interconnect.

The ability to use the 850 interface to load and use the 8-bit AtariWriter,etc.

60 new software programs from venders.

2 major expansion boxes; (1) a full 32-bit processor and (2) a 8 slot expansion for more memory,etc.

A separate sub-system within The Source with no sign-up fees and exclusively run by Atari Corp.

GEM will be on ROM and available from dealers at $20 retail.

A ST CALC. program

A Lotus 1-2-3 type program under $100.

The CD ROM player error checking bug has been corrected and should be available.

The 10 meg hard-disk drive at $500.

2 ST printers.

There will be no TV commericals this year. Supply for the machines are meeting the demands.

Secretary's Report to the Membership

HISTORY OF M.O.M. 1984-1985

As I complete my term as Secretary for Micro Of Monmouth I would like to take this opportunity to act as historian for the past year. In doing so I would like to draw to your attention some of the accomplishments of the Executive Committee that has served the club so unselfishly over the past year.

Recorded Minutes

- June 28,1984 - This was the first of a series of Executive Meetings where our President Frank Fezza explored ideas with the committee members and gave direction for the club's activities. Some of the Goals set at this meeting that are important to note are:

* Increase the membership for a healthier club, at that time there were 50 members and it was unclear if their was going to be an ATARI on the market at all.

* Setup a meeting structure that would lend itself to keeping the interest of all the members who attend.

* Adapt an annual membership dues policy where at any time of the year a member can join without pro-rating their dues. This way when a member joins the club they join for a full year and only pay dues once in a 12 month period.

* Give the club an identity of it's own by getting a post office box in the club's name.

- July 2,1984 - This was the First Meeting with the Elected Officers following elections;

* Jim Krutzler reported that there were "34 disks in the club library".

* Howard Goldman reported that there was $620 in the treasury.

* Joe Petrillo announced the new meeting structure and had lined up his first program with 5 demonstrations.

* Irwin Kaplan made his first appeal for articles to put into the newsletter and warned the members that the newsletter could become the "Kaplan News".

* I (yours truly) took my first minutes of a meeting (in my life) and filled three pages (in longhand...silly me).

* Frank Fezza announced (among other things) that during the week we had a post office box.

* Mike Carovillano volunteered to take over the tape and doccunemtaion libraries.

- August 1984 - M.O.M. gets mail from Hong Kong and Canada, there are 12 questions and issues brought up by the members attending the meeting, and we have 11 tapes in the tape library.

- September 1984 - New members started to come into the club, amoung them is George Sullivan our newly elected Secretary.

- October 1984 - Bahama "Joe P." returns...and Mike Carovillano initiates a sign-out proceedure for the doccumentation library.

- November 1984 - 1050's can be found at the amazing low price of $219 and the 800XL is going for the lowest it's ever been...$165 but Irwin Kaplan

predicts that "the prices may even go lower". M.O.M. has a BBS through the efforts of one of our youngest members, Jimmy Krutzler.

- December 1984 - DOS 3.0 makes the ATARI product line...wow! Frank throws a M.O.M. holiday party that is fun for all.

- January 1985 - Happy New Year !!! M.O.M. BBS is up to about 10 or so calls a day and Joe Petrillo works out the first club "deal" to get Happy's.

- February 1985 - M.O.M. gets more members and the Happy's go the second time.

- March 1985 - Irwin Kaplan completes the trade of 24 disks for the club library...Joe Petrillo stars in his first (M.O.M.'s first) full length feature maintaince video entitled "1050 Maintaince", a first for user groups. Joe starts the PAC-MAN contest.

- April 1985 - After a 130 machine demonstration the club sees "Video Joe" do it again with "Happy install".

- May 1985 - Joe survays the members for their input into the meeting agenda and Howard Goldman completes his Tutorial on AtariWriter.

- June 1985 - Frank Fezza does a Tutorial on spreadsheets and explains "what if" analysis. The survay results show more members would like to see hardware modifications and demonstrations followed closely by graphics then business and game software.

- July 1985 - Mike Carovillano displays the documentation library and Jim Krutzler announces that the club library now has it's 59th disk.

- August 1985 - New officers are elected.

Recorded Accomplishments

* President - Frank Fezza

- Created an environment for 18 tutorials and made it possible for the club to grow in membership at a time when the outlook of ATARI was at it's lowest. Frank demonstrated his desire to keep M.O.M. a healthy Users Group on many occasions, most recently including his negotiatons with the school in order to keep a place to meet. If not for this gentleman's efforts there would NOT be an ATARI Users Group in this area.

* Disk Librarian - Jim Krutzler

- Jim showed that he was much more than the keeper of a box of disks. Jim took a library organized it, added new software to it as it was brought in and copied enough disks to keep members supplied. Over the year Jim better than DOUBLED the size of our library, from 34 to over 60..double sided, that's 120 folks. And if one might think that all this is a full time job let's not forget for a minute the person that is responsible for getting a dozen newsletters in our mail boxes. Jim organized each newsletter (...and did a lot of writing of the articles in the newsletter), had over 2,000 sheets of paper xeroxed to cover all the members AND mailed them out to ALL of us. If there was a "harder worker" it could only have been his son. We have all reaped the benifits of this man's work!!

* Editor - Irwin Kaplan

- Irwin produced the majority of the articles for the newsletters. He made

as many pleas for members to help him as there were meetings. With very little aid Irwin still seemed to find enough material to fill 204 sheets of M.O.M. newsprint. If you find it hard to write one article a year try taking this job !!

‡ Secretary - Ken Kelly

- Somehow after writing about the above two gentlemen and thinking about who's comming up... I feel that filling 1125 lines of minutes isn't much of an accomplishment, but I was proud of having the opportunity to "Respectfully" submit my minutes each meeting.

‡ Documentation Librarian - Mike Carovillano

- Mike took over a job that helped to bury Jim Krutzler in even more work. Mike organized, added and displayed all the clubs information. When a member needs some piece of what Mike put together only then can one realize the importance of having a good documentation library. It was a lot of information to constantly move around (...A TV might be looked upon as a blessing after moveing these BOXES) for EVERY meeting but Mike did it and enjoyed the challange of being the best at what he was asked to do.

‡ Treasurer - Howard Goldman

- Who else but Howard could have gone the entire year with costs for a new BBS, P.O. Box, mailings, equipment purchases, bills,bills,bills...and still was able to turn over an account that had $84.00 MORE in it than when he started. I guess he was right when he'd REPORT; "The Treasury is doing OK...".

‡ BBS Sysop - Jimmy Krutzler

- This young man has started on a road to understanding one of the more important sciences of our times...Computers...AND the software that makes them valuable to us. The work that he has done, and the learning he must have gone through to be able to manipulate the data bases that he has put together on our BBS, is in principal the kind of work men alot older, with alot more schooling struggle to get accomplished. Think of the time required to accomplish what Jimmy has done and the dedication to getting it RIGHT...time and time again Jimmy must have been faced with what seemed to be insurmountable tasks, but he did it. With over 100 callers and reaching as far as California the BBS M.O.M. supports is in highly QUALIFIED hands and looks nothing like it did when Jimmy started. The entire BBS was written from scratch including the machine language routines.

‡ Program Chairman - Joe Petrillo

- The list of things that Joe has done to keep M.O.M. a "living" organization could not be entirely collected nor expressed properly. The members were given the opportunity to view in the demonstrations that Joe organized an amazing 77 pieces of software. I can think of the times when Joe would be demonstrating software that I saw in the magazines AFTER Joe had shown them to us. Incredable amounts of energy must have been directed toward staying up with the onslaught of software and the members that witnessed Joe's demonstrations saw the latest, newest software on the market at that time (and don't miss a meeting because if you did than you were told about a demo of software you had never heard of before). In addition to constantly chasing down the latest and greatest, Joe also was the driving force for some of the other activities we enjoyed. Joe is responsible for our video library. Not only was this his idea, but HE made it

happen. And let's not forget all the fun we had competing in our first PAC-MAN Contest. This was another of Joe's ideas and again an example of the kind of thinking that Joe was constantly going through, how to make the club more interesting, exciting and more productive for all of the members.

Summary

Looking back at the last year and the accomplishments of those who I have been given the opportunity to work (..and play) with, one thing stands out clear as a bell and that is the people involved, ALL the people involved. I have just gone through the accomplishments of the Executive Committee and don't doubt that there was a chemistry at work there, we wanted to do our best to obtain those goals that were set before us by Frank Fezza at that very first meeting. What comes to mind now is all of the members that attended the meetings and participated in those meetings. Some do demonstrations, some bring in software for our library, some have made life a little easier by taking the TV or being a little early to help set up the room, some have written articles for the newsletter, some have raised issues or asked questions to the tune of over "100" in the past year (that's an average of 4 people at every meeting either raising a question about their ATARI or bring information to help all of us about our ATARI's at every meeting), and the list goes on and on. But it's these members that make our club work!! They are the reason why there is an ATARI Users Group in the central part of this state and I would be remiss if it wasn't stated here that WE ALL PLAY A PART IN WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR CLUB. On that note I can only say that I am looking forward to what can be another exciting year with the M.O.M. members and know that YOU will want to make the 1985-1986 year as exciting as the past 1984-1985 year has been.

...as always...

Respectfully submitted by,

Ken Kelly
Secretary

"All I did was press the run button."

COMPUTER RELATED VVIISSIIOONN PPRROOBBLLEEMMSS

Excerpts taken from articles in
Newark Star Ledger September 26, 1985
Somerset Messenger Gazette February 14, 1985

The Universiity of California's School of Optometry has opened the first eye clinic specializing in problems associated with the use of video display terminals (VDTs). The main objective is to deal with VDT's adverse effect on eye health and user productivity.

The clinic is supported by donations from AT&T and Westinghouse Electric Corp. Their concers are the growing number of complaints of eyestrain, double vision, headaches and fatigue. This results in higher error rates and reduced speed and efficiency.

Patients are examined and asked to describe their workstations. This includes physical positions relative to the VDT's such as desk height and distance from the screen. Special attention is given to lighting, the patients sensitivity to glare, problems with eye movement and coordination and ability to focus on the screen.

According to Dr. William Moskowitz, a behavorial optometrist at 2 Park Avenue, Somerville, N.J.; "Even under the best working conditions at least half of VDT operators have complaints about vision related symptoms. They suffer headaches, eyestrain, blurred or double vision and even permanent vision problems." He cites the National Academy of Sciences report, "Video Displayes, Work and Vision". Releashed in late 1984 it confirmed that VDT's do not cause diseases or pathologies of the eyes. This report does state however, that people who already have vision problems, some of them very subtle, are very likely to experience vision-related complaints when using a VDT. Direct symptoms of VDT related vision problems are burning, itching, watery, pulling or irritated sensations of the eye, headaches, momentary blurred or double vision, or difficulty seeing clearly at distances after prolonged VDT work.

Dr. Moskowitz had the following observation; "In a sense we have Neanderthal vision for computer age work. Human vision developed to assure survival, to spot game, enemies, or opportunities at great distances." This disparity between our distance vision preference and the need to do near work is the main source of vision problems. The effort it takes to do near vision work is significantly greater than the effort required for distance work. It involves very complex eye aiming and the ability to use both eyes togrther, smoothly and simultaneously.

VDT users may require a change in their regular eye lens prescription or lens design or special lenses just for VDT use. People who wear glasses to clear their distance vision may find their precription is actually causing problems when they use a VDT. For most people, low power, focus-relaxing lenses prescribed specifically for their visual capabilities and for their own computer workstation can help. For people with certain visual skills problems, visual therapy may be benefical to develop the skill and resilience needed for VDT work.

The following suggestions are intended for workplace but can be applied to

home usage as well.

1- The way the VDT workstation is arranged can have a big impact on vision complaints. Simple steps such as eliminating glare from surroundings and reflections on the screen can help a lot. Adjust the brightness and contrast on the screen to obtain the clearest display possible.

2- Screens should be positioned so that workers can look at them as they would a typewriter. Place the screen so the operator can occasionally look up into a distant space instead of a nearby wall for visual relief breaks.

3- Choose software with dark characters on a light background. They are easier to discern.

4- When selecting a monitor, check for flicker and jitter. Also examine the text. Fuzzy-edge letters on a screen result in a constant effort by the eyes to clear up what wasn't clear to begin with.

By 1986 about 35 million Americans will work with VDT's as a daily part of their jobs. Although eye strain may appear to be an occupational hazard, many of us spend more time than we care to admit staring at a "tube" at home as well.

Bill Schneider
M.O.M JAC6

MAGIC SQUARES

Magic squares are arrays of numbers that the sum of the numbers in each row,column, or along the diagonal is the same. The ability to create a magic squared has entertained people over centuries. Here is a program adopted to the Atari computer that generates a magic square starting with any number. This program works well for screen display with upto seven cells.

in case you are interested the sum of the rows,columns,and main diagonals is called the magic constant. The formula for the magic constant is:

Magic Constant = n((n squared)+1)/2

For example in the magic square of 3(3 by 3 or 9 cells), the magic constant is calculated as follows:

MC = 3(3(squared)+1)/2 = 3(9+1)2 = 30/2 = 15

Magic Constant = 15

Try it, you'll like it and so will the kids.Ed.

==========

```
10 REM **********************
11 REM *** MAGIC SQUARE ***
15 REM **********************
100 GRAPHICS 0:? :?
110 DIM M(25,25)
120 PRINT "HOW BIG IS THE MAGIC SQUARE -        FOR EXAMPLE, A 5X5 SQUARE WOULD BE
130 INPUT N                                                    ENTERED AS 5."
133 PRINT
140 PRINT "ENTER STARTING NUMBER"
150 INPUT Y
151 GRAPHICS 0
152 SETCOLOR 2,4,4
153 SETCOLOR 4,12,4
155 LET S=Y
160 PRINT N;" BY ";N;" MAGIC SQUARE STARTING"
161 PRINT "WITH THE NUMBER ";S
170 PRINT
180 LET K=1
190 LET I=1
200 LET J=(N+1)/2
220 LET M(I,J)=S
230 LET S=S+1
270 IF S>N*N+Y-1 THEN 490
290 IF K<N THEN 350
310 LET K=1
320 LET I=I+1
330 GOTO 220
350 LET K=K+1
360 LET I=I-1
370 LET J=J+1
400 IF I<>0 THEN 440
420 LET I=N
430 GOTO 220
440 IF J<=N THEN 220
460 LET J=1
470 GOTO 220
490 FOR ROW=1 TO N
500 FOR COL=1 TO N
510 IF M(ROW,COL)>=10 THEN PRINT M(ROW,COL);"  ";
515 IF M(ROW,COL)<10 THEN PRINT M(ROW,COL);"   ";
520 NEXT COL
530 PRINT
540 PRINT
550 PRINT
560 NEXT ROW
570 END
```

Secretary's Report to the Membership

09-09-85 Minutes of M.O.M. Meeting

BUSINESS

Ken Kelly opened the meeting with a discussion of recent letters received by MOM requesting information about the club. These letters were turned over to George Sullivan for reply. The club also was requested to advertise software for the new ST line in its newsletter.

The club is receiving information about the ATARI ST computers directly from ATARI. This information will be placed in the club documation library. Also, recent newsletters from other clubs were discussed and placed in the library. Tom Burke has donated a technical manual about the ATARI 850 interface to the library.

The club received information on software which was cabable of deciphering and transmitting Morse code! There was a discussion on techniques involved to accomplish this.

Ken Kelly, in is last act as Past-Secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting.

Irwin Kaplan brought the club upto date on recent ATARI news. He said that AT&T is denying a rumor that it will place its name on some ATARI ST machines. ATARI is only one of the companies being considered. He talked about the anticipated price wars for Xmas. ATARI is still trying to get the GEM operating system (TOS) into ROM. Most of the new software released for the ST is in pretty rough shape and runs very slowly.

In Mike Carovillano's absence, Ken Kelly also gave the Treasurer's report. The club remains in excellent financial shape.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A variety of Q & A's were brought up. One member said that the ATARI ST had been compared to the Commodore Amiga at a show in the Meadowlands. The ST seemed favored but still suffers from lack of quality software.

Joe Petrillo said he has been playing a new computer chess game, "My Chess". He said it was the most challanging computer chess game he has tried. It kept him busy for much of his vacation!! (come on, Joe...ed.)

DEMONSTRATIONS

Joe Petrillo demoed "Tarot Cards", a fortune-telling simulation. It deals Tarot cards on screen and "predicts" the future.

Joe also demoed "Maxi-Golf". It is a golfing simulation from Adventure International. It plays well and alows for choices of clubs, curve, stroke strength, etc. It was very realistic and included such things as bouncing off trees and landing in sand traps! It even lets you design your own golf course to play on.

Howard Goldman demoed a multiple-choice quiz generator that he typed from a magazine and modified. After he gets some of the bugs out, he promised to donate this program to the club Library.

George Sullivan discussed a new addition he was placing in the club disk library. It is the "G" device handler from Analog October, 1985.

It allows for direct printer listing of Basic and Assembler source code including graphic and inverse characters. It also allows for screen dumps of modes 0, 7+, and 8. It is designed for Epson-compatible printers.

SPECIAL INTERESTS

Ken Kelly presented a "year in review" to the membership. He discussed the goals set by the club's past officers and their accomplishments. The membership joined Ken in congratulating the past officers on a job well done.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of M.O.M. is scheduled for Monday, 09-23-85.

Respectfully submitted by,

George J. Sullivan
Secretary

<<< DOCUMENT LIBRARY >>>
MICROS OF MONOMUTH

by Norman Wersan

Atari Demopacs #1 to #11
Atari 400/800 Operating System Source Listing
Atari 400/800 Hardware Manual
Adventure Software Solving Tips
DOS XL - Manual for the Disk Operating System for the Atari Computer - OSS Software
DOS 3 - Atari Disk Operating System Reference Manual
Atari 810 - DOS Utilities Source Listing
Atari 1200XL - Operating System Manual
Atari 850 Interface Module Technical Manual
No. 001 - MOM Instructional Hardware Tape - Cleaning & Servicing Your 810 & 1050 Disk Drives
The Giant Handbook of Computer Projects - by the Editors of 73 Magazine
67 Ready to Run Programs in BASIC: Graphics, Home and Business, Education, Games by Wm. Scott Watson
Programmer's Guide to LISP by Ken Tracton
55 Advanced Computer Programs in Basic by Wm. Scott Watson
Epson User's Manual FX-80 Printer
The CP/M Handbook with MP/M by Rodnay Zaks
New Webster's Computer Dictionary - Wold and Hunter
M.A.C.E. Journals
JACG Journals
ENERGY newsletters
Bay Area Atari newsletters
PACE newsletters
Atari Teacher's Network
Turtle News, Young People's LOGO Assn.
Cassettes, various programs.

<<< NEW ATARI COVERAGE >>>

by Jim Krutzler

Home Computer magazine, which was once called 99'er Home Computer, has started coverage of the Atari computer family in its Vol.5 No.5 issue. The magazine covers 5 of the home comouters; Apple, Atari, Commodore, IBM and TI. There are no outside advertising found in the issue and the programs are also available on disk and tape at a cost less than what other mags offer. The newsstand price is $3.50 and on the inside back cover are 3 fantastic subscription offers, free software included. Several free issues were distributed to the MOM members for reviews.

Software Giveaway with Purchase of this Magazine
HOME COMPUTER
magazine
FOCUSING EXCLUSIVELY ON • APPLE • ATARI • COMMODORE • IBM • TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
Vol. 5 No. 5
Now Expanded To Include ATARI COVERAGE!
Memoranda Processing
Computer-Assisted Correspondence Comes Home
Featuring A Ready-To-Use Electronic Typewriter for:
Memoranda Of All Kinds
Quick & Easy Correspondence
Short Lists, Notes, & Schedules
Custom Text-Format Templates
Contains 41 Type-In Programs!
Special Apple, Atari, Commodore, IBM, & TI Software:
Fantastic Voyage Through the Microprocessor
Cardio-Vascular Bio-Simulation
Cybernetic Card Capers
King Arthur's Final Round

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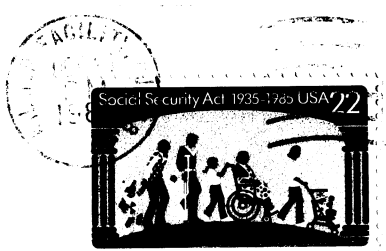

FIRST CLASS